

Message Text

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PAGE 01 ATHENS 06926 101641Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-14 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-02
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FM AMEMBASSY ATHENS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7188
INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY NICOSIA
AMEMBASSY PARIS
USMISSION USNATO
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GE
USDOCOSOUTH
USNMR SHAPE

UNCLAS ATHENS 6926

BRUSSELS FOR USEEC

E.O. 11652 N/A
TAGS PEPR, GR, CY, TU, US
SUBJECT: FOREIGN RELATIONS: GOG DENIES PAPANDREOU ALLEGATION THAT
US SEEKS MEDIATION ROLE

REF: ATHENS 6872

1. THE GREEK GOVERNMENT REACTED SHARPLY TO PASOK
PRESIDENT PAPANDREOU'S STATEMENT OF YESTERDAY (REFTL)
WHICH HAD SIGHT UNSEEN CONDEMNED THE PRESIDENT'S
MESSAGE TO PRIME MINISTER KARAMANLIS AND CLAIMED
THE US SOUGHT TO PLAY THE ROLE OF MEDIATOR ON THE
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CYPRUS PROBLEM AND IN GREEK- TURKISH ISSUES. THE
GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN DECLARED: "WHILE ADMITTING THAT
HE DOES NOT KNOW THE CONTENTS OF THE CARTER MESSAGE,
MR. PAPANDREOU DRAWS HIS ARBITRARY CONCLUSIONS WHICH
ARE, TO SAY THE LEAST, BIZARRE. IN ANY CASE, THE
PRESIDENT OF PASOK MAY CALM DOWN FOR THERE IS NO
AMERICAN PROPOSAL FOR MEDIATION".

2. NEWSPAPER COMMENT WIDELY REPORTED THE GOVERNMENT STATEMENT. IN THIS CONNECTION, LIBERAL OPPOSITION TO VIMA CONTINUED TO PLAY THE THEME, REPORTED INITIALLY BY NEW YORK CORRESPONDENT EFSTATHIADIS, THAT WASHINGTON REMAINED INTERESTED IN ASSISTING IN THE RESOLUTION OF GREEK-TURKISH DIFFERENCES. TO VIMA SAID THAT THIS CONSTITUTED "SUPPORT FOR THE GREEK-TURKISH DIALOGUE ON WASHINGTON'S PART, "RATHER THAN THE "MEDIATION" THAT PAPANDREOU HAD CLAIMED, AND AGAIN INSISTED THAT THERE WAS AN EXPRESSED DESIRE FROM BOTH THE GREEK AND TURKISH GOVERNMENTS FOR MEDIATORY ASSISTANCE FROM WASHINGTON.

3. PRESIDENT KYPRIANOU CALLED ON PRIME MINISTER KARAMANLIS AUGUST 8 BUT THERE WAS LITTLE NEWS COVERAGE OF THE EVENT SINCE BOTH REFRAINED FROM MEETING WITH THE PRESS AFTERWARDS. IT WAS INDICATED, HOWEVER, THAT THEY WOULD MEET AGAIN PRIOR TO PRESIDENT KYPRIANOU'S DEPARTURE FOR NICOSIA. THERE WAS NO OFFICIAL ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE SUBJECTS DISCUSSED DURING THE MEETING.
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